

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 6-15, without disclaimer or prejudice to the inclusion of the subject matter contained therein in any later filed continuation or divisional application(s). Further, please add new claims 16-31.

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

16. (New) A method of identifying a protein, a polypeptide or a peptide secreted from a human adipocyte comprising

- a) isolating human preadipocytes;
- b) differentiating said human preadipocytes with a differentiation medium comprising a defined cell culture medium; wherein said medium comprises 1.0-4.5 g/liter glucose, a cyclic AMP inducer, a glucocorticoid or a glucocorticoid analogue, insulin or an insulin analogue, and a Peroxisome Proliferator Activated Receptor gamma agonist or a retinoic acid X receptor agonist effective to stimulate differentiation of said human preadipocytes;
- c) comparing the pattern of proteins, polypeptides or peptides secreted by the differentiated cell with the pattern of proteins, polypeptides or peptides secreted by an undifferentiated adipocyte;
- d) identifying the proteins, polypeptides or peptides secreted by the differentiated cell.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said medium further comprise 3-10% fetal bovine serum.

18. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said medium further comprise 1-100 μ M pantothenate and 1-100 μ M biotin.

19. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said medium further comprises a buffer having a pH of about 7.0 to 7.6.

20. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said medium is Dulbeccos Modified Eagle/Hams' F-10 Nutrient Broth (1:1 vol/vol).

21. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said Peroxisome Proliferator Activated Receptor gamma agonist is thiazolidinedione.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said thiazolidinedione is BRL 49653.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the concentration of said BRL 49653 is about 0.5-1.0 μM .

24. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein said thiazolidinedione is troglitazone.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the concentration of said troglitazone is about 0.5-1.0 μM .

26. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said glucocorticoid is dexamethasone, hydrocortisone or cortisol.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the concentration of said glucocorticoid is about 16 nM to 1.0 μM .

28. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said cyclic AMP inducer is isobutylmethylxanthine or forskolin.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said isobutylmethylxanthine is present in said medium at a final concentration of about 0.2 to 0.5 mM.

30. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the concentration of insulin is about 100 nM to 1.0 μM .

31. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said preadipocyte is genetically modified.